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Great Basin National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Betsy Duncan-Clark Extension 7512

Date: June 20, 2013

Great Basin National Park Quarter Launched by US Mint

Baker, Nevada – The Great Basin National Park quarter, the 18th in the U. S. Mint's "America the Beautiful" series, was officially launched on Thursday, June 20, during a ceremony attended by nearly 200 people that took place at the Great Basin Visitor Center in Baker, Nevada. The coin is adorned with a dramatic picture of an ancient Great Basin bristlecone pine.

Andy Ferguson, former Superintendent of Great Basin National Park, was master of ceremonies, which included a message from U.S. Senator Harry Reid about the history of Great Basin National Park read by Justin Brandenburg, Regional Representative and a description of the America the Beautiful quarter program from U.S. Senator Dean Heller conveyed by State Director Ashley Carrigan.

The senator's messages were followed by a rousing vocal performance by Kiah Conrad of "Proud to be an American"; remarks from a tribal perspective by Delaine Spilsbury, Shoshone Tribe, an inspirational portrayal of the bristlecone pine by Steve Mietz, Superintendent, Great Basin National Park and an informative presentation on the coin design process by Ron Harrigal, Senior Advisor, United States Mint.

As Harrigal finished his remarks he presented Superintendent Mietz with a presentation case of first run Great Basin quarters from the Philadelphia and Denver Mint. Harrigal invited Mietz to join him for the traditional "coin pour," captured in a beautiful basket loaned for the occasion by Ms. Spilsbury, while Kiah Conrad played a cello accompaniment.

Afterwards Mietz and Harrigal, with the help of U.S. Mint and park staff, passed out quarters to the students and youth in the audience. Event participants then purchased rolls of the newly minted quarters from the First National Bank of Ely, Nevada.

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For more information about the quarter, click on the link below.

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/?local=GreatBasin.

To learn more about Great Basin National Park, visit www.nps.gov/grba.

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**** Editor's Note: Superintendent Steve Mietz is available for interviews at (775) 234-7331 ****

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 398 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.